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Country: Germany (Federal Republic)/Eastern Europe/USSR

Subject: I.F.F.J. report: Problems of Eastern Europe in West German Politics

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/Available on loan from CIA Library is a 29-page photostat copy of a report entitled Problems of Eastern Europe in West German Politics, prepared May 1953 for limited dissemination by the International Federation of Free Journalists of Central and Eastern Europe and Balkan and Baltic Countries, 10 Stanhope Place, London W. 2.

Summary:

This report discusses current trends in West German political thought on future relations with Eastern Europe and the USSR.

It analyzes the aims, partisans and propaganda mediums of the two chief trends:

1. "The trend of 'limited' political aims"
  2. "The trend of 'unlimited' political aims."
1. The trend of limited political aims advocates a return to the status quo prior to 1939 (only a small fraction of this camp supports the more drastic aim of return to the status quo prior to 1914). This trend enjoys support from the masses. It finds expression in the definite program of an organized group: the political party Gesamtdeutsche Block der Heimatvertriebenen und Entrechteten (GBHE), established 1952 to represent the several million deportees and refugees from Eastern Europe who "want to go back home". It also finds expression in an important group of newspapers and periodicals.
  2. The trend of unlimited political aims encompasses several political doctrines "still in a stage of research and discussion" among groups of elite--politicians and scientists "working discreetly behind the scenes". These doctrines include:
    - a. "Return to the Rapallo System" (i.e. system of division of influence between Germany and the USSR over the territories situated between them).
      - The "neutralist" group envisages co-operation between Germany and the USSR.
      - Such groups as the Society of German-Russian friendship envisage co-operation with a democratic Russia "of the future". Certain newspapers promote this line.
    - b. "Reconstruction of the pre-World War II Central European system with Germany dominant". This concept is being developed by two main groups:
      - A civilian group concentrated around the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Osteuropakunde (German Association for Research on Central European

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b. (continued)

Questions) established 1949 in Stuttgart. The report lists the leading members and active collaborators.

-A military group developing "within the frame of a future German General Staff." This group is evolving a "colonial" policy based on traditional Mitteuropa principles.

The report also notes certain minor trends in German political thought concerning Eastern Europe:

a. Current research by the Eastern Department of the SPD (German Socialist Party).

b. Activity of the Arbeitskreis Osteuropa group, Stuttgart.

The report concludes with a review of the influence of such trends on the official policy of the Bonn Government.7

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